The good shepherd

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
God the Good Shepherd
Lesson for September 13, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Psalm 23
Introduction

Few funeral services are conducted without the inclusion of a reading of the 23rd Psalm. This scriptural gem has been a source of comfort for many

The Bible & Daily Living

people. The psalm is basically one of trust and confidence in God. The psalmist does not preface his words with complaints about the pains of affliction, illness or treachery of enemies; instead he begins, as he ends, with words of gratitude for the never failing goodness of the Lord.

While this psalm expresses a quiet trust in God, it also describes God as a shepherd who provides, a guide we leads his sheep through dark ravines, and is a good host who offers a perpetual banquet and hospitality.

It is somewhat significant that the psalmist (usually identified as David) chooses to describe God as a good shepherd. A shepherd at first glance does not seem to be an appropriate description for God. But shepherds have always been portrayed as leaders, protectors and providers. The shepherd of old was known for his commitment to his sheep, that he would indeed give his life for his sheep if need be.

There may be no significance in the fact that when God revealed the Christ-child, the first ones to lay eyes on him were shepherds.

A Shepherd Who Provides [Ps. 23:1-3]

In the orient the shepherd and his sheep enjoyed a unique relationship, that is, the shepherd knew his sheep and they knew his voice. I've often watched with amazement as Jimmy Rosser, a farmer in Pamplin, scans his fields and knows in a moment's notice whether all of his cattle are present and accounted for. He knows them by sight and they know him by his voice. No one can holler at them and get them to move as he is able to do! They know him and trust him to feed and care for them.

"I shall not want" literally reads "I have no want." This does not mean that God is over-indulgent, but he does care about the needs of his followers. There is a sense in which we cannot say "I shall not want" until we are able to say "The Lord is my shepherd."

The good shepherd is one who leads his sheep to the places where food and water are abundant. The good shepherd also looks out for the best places for rest and comfort.

"He leads me" implies that sheep are always led, never driven. God is a good shepherd to everyone who turns and follows him. He leads us to "quiet water" where refreshment restores strength to our bodies. Thus, God provides the gifts that are essential for life. These gifts restore us to full activity and enjoyment of life.

A Shepherd Who Protects [Ps. 23:4]

The second part of verse 3 reveals a shift from the shepherd figure to that of a guide. Later in the psalm the guide becomes a host. All three figures are closely related and are reflective of God's involvement in the human drama.

A guide is essential for following the right paths as opposed to following those paths that would lead astray.

The point is that there is only one desired destination, and that there are right ways to achieve the right end.

Verse 4 continues the image of God as a protector. No life is immune from darkness. To avoid the dark is not the point, but to have the assurance of a sympathetic and qualified guide to lead us through the dark valleys is the focus of verse 4.

The rod and staff are symbols of the shepherd's protective care of his sheep.

The Shepherd Host [Ps. 23:5-6]

The shepherd protects, guides and feeds his sheep. No valley is so dark that even God refuses to pass through. God is a good host who feeds and gives rest to weary pilgrims. No enemy can destroy us when we are sheltered by the protective care of God. We are guests in his house and at his banquet table.

The annointing of the head with oil was a custom of the Orient. The annointing was a sign of honor and joy to those who entered the banquet hall. To confess God as friend is to enjoy his blessing and affirmation.

Our enemies will never destroy us, for God's "sheep" are pursued by companions, "goodness and mercy." The pilgrim's highest delight will always be to continue as a guest in the Lord's house.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. (WLYP)

Thanks, Appomattox

Editor:

Please allow me a few lines in your letters section, for I know of no other way in which to reach the multitudes I must reach.

I have recently experienced the trauma of a mastectomy, which was extremely sudden.

Never having been ill before, I had no idea what prayers, cards, flowers, telephone calls, and words of encouragement and well wishes can mean to one who is hospitalized for more than a few days.

I have always known that Appomattox is a beautiful town. I now also know that it is inhabited by beautiful people.

A day did not pass while I was in the hospital that I did not receive some warm, wonderful message from someone in Appomattox.

A simple "thank you" seems so shallow, I only hope and pray that each of you who were with me in thought and prayer will know that you shall always have a very special place in my heart.

Fondly,
Nancy P. Sherred
Richmond

Advertisement correction noted

In the last two editions of the Times-Virginian, the American Federal Money Market advertisement incorrectly listed the 30-month certificate minimum balance as $100.

The correct minimum balance for the 30-month certificate should be $500.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Parris graduates

Roland Baxter Parris III of Appomattox was one of 999 students at Iowa State University receiving degrees in summer commencement exercises held Aug. 15.

Parris received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural mechanization.

He was one of 119 students receiving bachelors degrees in agriculture.

PICTURED ABOVE is Mike McCoy, an Appomattox County 4-H'er, who will perform his winning Share-the-Fun Act at the Virginia Bankers Association meeting on September 9, 1981 at the Natural Bridge Hotel. Mike, a junior at Appomattox County High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward McCoy. Mike has been chosen to represent the Virginia Share the Fun program at this event because of his outstanding blue-ribbon performance at the State 4-H Congress in June, 1981.

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REGISTRATION - By Phone: Call 352-8252
By Mail: Return Form Below

FIRST SEMESTER CLASSES 1981-1982

COURSE	TIME	CLASS BEGINS	LENGTH OF COURSE	COST	LOCATION
Adult Basic Education					
Adult Basic Class (Classes for adults who did not finish High School and who desire to work toward securing the State Equivalency Certificate)	To & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 22	50 hours	No Tuition Charge	Adult Education Center at Appomattox Elementary School
Adult General Education					
Art (Drawing and Painting)	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	30 hours	$10.00 plus cost of materials	ACHS, Art Department
GED Review Class (for adults who want to take the high school equivalency examination)	To & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 22	60 hours	$25.00 (includes books)	ACHS, Room 303
Physical Education (Men)	Mon & Th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 26	30 hours	$10.00	ACHS Gym
Physical Education (Women)	Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 22	30 hours	$7.50	AMS Gym
Diet, Exercise and Behavior Modification (DEB)	Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 8:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Pamplin Only)	Monday, Sept. 21 Thursday, Sept. 24	16 hours "	no tuition	AMS Cafeteria Pgm Library
(This class is being conducted by Appomattox County School Board in cooperation with the VPI Extension Service.)					
Aerobes (Body Conditioning Program for men and women)	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	30 hours	$7.50	AMS Gym
Agricultural Education					
Woodworking	Tuesday, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept., 22	30 hours	$15.00 plus materials	ACHS, Vo-Ag Lab,
Young Farmers (Young men 16-35 years of age.)	Contact Vocational Agriculture Department at ACHS for Information Concerning This Class - Phone 352-5002.				
Accounting, Beginning	Tu & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept., 22	60 hours	$30.00 includes bks.	ACHS Room 302
Accounting, Advanced	Tu & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept., 22	60 hours	$30.00 includes books	ACHS Room 302
Typing, Beginning	Tu & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept., 23	60 hours	$30.00	ACHS Room 304
Typing, Advanced	Tu & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept., 22	60 hours	$30.00	ACHS Room 304
Distributive Education					
Bad Check Prevention Seminar	Wednesday, 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.	Wednesday, October 7	3½ hours	$3.00	ACHS Room 305
Shoplifting Prevention Seminar	Tuesday, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Tuesday, October 13	3 hours	$3.00	ACHS Room 305
Small Business Administration (A Prebusiness Workshop)	Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Wednesday, October 14	6 hours	$10.00	Farmers Bank -- Annex
How To Train	To Be Announced		10 hours	$10.00	ACHS Room 305
Home Economics Education					
Micro-Wave Cooking	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, October 1	3 hours	$7.50	ACHS Room 308
(This class is being conducted by Appomattox County School Board in cooperation with the VPI Extension Service.)					
Sewing, Beginning	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	30 hours	$10.00	ACHS Room 310
Sewing, Intermediate and Advanced	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	30 hours	$10.00	ACHS Room 310
Upholstery	Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Sept. 23	25 hours	$12.50	Home Ec., Room 308
Tailoring (wool)	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	30 hours	$25.00 includes book	ACHS, Room 308
Trade and Industrial Education					
Auto Mechanics (Beginners only, men and women)	Thursday, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Thursday, Sept. 24	15 hours	$7.50 and materials	ACHS, Room 316
Bricklaying	Mon & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 21	60 hours	$30.00	ACHS, Room 322
Drafting (Beginning Blueprint Reading)	Mon & Th, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	Monday, Sept. 21	45 hours	$25.00 includes materials	ACHS Room 314

NOTE:

1. Appomattox County School Board reserves the right to cancel a class if less than ten (10) persons enroll for a class.
2. Enrollment fees to be collected by instructor at first class meeting.
3. Persons are to pre-register for a class by calling 352-8252 during the hours of 8:30 - 5:00 or by mailing the registration form below.
4. Persons interested in a class not offered, please contact R. B. Carter, Adult Education Coordinator, at 352-8252 and give information about class desired.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please enroll Miss / Mrs. / Mrs. _____ in the following course _____.
Telephone number _____.
Address _____
S. S. # _____

Mail To: Adult Education Coordinator, Appomattox County School Board, P. O. Box 548, Appomattox, Virginia 24522.

Mrs. Brenda Thomas

Brenda Thomas is licenced

Mrs. Brenda Thomas has received notification from the Virginia State Board of Nursing that she has passed the necessary licensing examinations to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Virginia.

Mrs. Thomas is a 1981 graduate of the Lynchburg General-Marshall Lodge Hospitals School of Nursing and is currently employed at the hospital.

Mrs. Thomas is the wife of Melvin B. Thomas and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude W. Thompson, all of Appomattox.

Pageant slated

"A Greater Glory," a pageant depicting the history of Campbell County for 200 years, will be staged at 8 p.m. Sept. 25 and 26, and at 3 p.m. Sept. 27 at Rustburg High School in Rustburg.

Author of the pageant is Dr. Thomas Stephens, head of the Drama Department at Randolph-Macon Women's College. The pageant will be directed by Mrs. Christine Frazier of Altavista.

The cast will include descendents of the founders of Campbell County and other talent. The pageant is funded by a grant made available by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

Admission is $2 for adults, $1 for children. Advance tickets are available at the Campbell County Recreation Department.

Dinner planned

The Central Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Museum will hold its Annual Membership Dinner at the Pennington's home, "Col Alto", in Buckingham, Va. on Saturday, Sept. 12 beginning about 4:30 p.m.

Exciting programs for the upcoming year will be presented following a "covered dish" dinner on the lawn.

Entertainment will be provided by The Ayers Family, a local well-known musical group. Members are asked to bring a perspective member as their guest. For information, call Martha Louis at (804) 969-4355.

AARP to meet

The Pamplin Chapter of American Association of Retired Persons is having their regular monthly meeting at the Pamplin United Charge Methodist Church at 12:15 on September 15.

Following pot-luck lunch, members will hear a talk by Mrs. Beverly Bass Davis, Volunteer Services Coordinator at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital. She has helped to develop the volunteer program for 250 residents there.

Mrs. Davis, a native of Rice, Va., presently resides in Rice. She is a graduate of Guilford College in North Carolina. She has published articles and conducted workshops statewide on volunteering as therapy and rearranging volunteer programs, especially those dealing with the aging.

Got a news story

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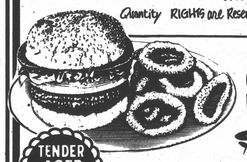

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